

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A drive mechanism for a vertical axis automatic washer, the washer having a rotatable wash basket, a rotatable agitator concentrically mounted in the wash basket and a drive motor, the drive mechanism comprising:
 - a first drive shaft driven by the motor at a first rotational speed and with a first torque,
 - a second drive shaft arranged to rotatably drive the agitator,
 - a mechanism arranged between the first drive shaft and the second drive shaft to convert the first rotational speed and first torque to a second rotational speed and a second torque at the second drive shaft,
 - a first clutch arranged between the wash basket and the first drive shaft to allow for selective engagement and disengagement between the wash basket and the first drive shaft,
 - a second clutch arranged between the wash basket and the second drive shaft to allow for selective engagement and disengagement between the wash basket and the second drive shaft, and to allow for the wash basket to rotate with the second drive shaft when the wash basket is disengaged from the first drive shaft, but engaged with the second drive shaft, wherein the drive mechanism is configured to effect higher speed and lower torque during a water extraction mode and lower speed and higher torque during an agitation mode.
2. (Previously presented) A drive mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the first drive shaft is connected to the motor via a belt and pulley arrangement.
3. (Previously presented) A drive mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the second drive shaft is connected to the agitator via a direct spline connection.
4. (Previously presented) A drive mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the mechanism comprises a gear mechanism.
5. (Previously presented) A drive mechanism according to claim 4, wherein the gear mechanism comprises a planetary gear arrangement.

6. (Previously presented) A drive mechanism according to claim 5, wherein the first drive shaft is connected to a sun gear and the second drive shaft is connected to a planetary gear carrier.

7. (Previously presented) A drive mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the first clutch comprises a spline clutch.

8. (Currently amended) A drive mechanism according to claim [[1]] 4, wherein the wash basket includes a spin tube arranged concentrically around the second drive shaft and the second clutch comprises a tang clutch arranged between the spin tube and the gear mechanism.

9. (Currently amended) An automatic washer comprising:
a rotatable wash basket,
a rotatable agitator concentrically mounted in the wash basket,
a drive motor,
a first drive shaft driven by the motor at a first rotational speed and with a first torque,
a second drive shaft arranged to rotatingly drive the agitator,
a rotatably mounted spin tube [[tube]] arranged concentrically around the second drive shaft,
a mechanism arranged between the first drive shaft and the second drive shaft to convert the first rotational speed and first torque to a second rotational speed and a second torque at the second drive shaft,
a first clutch arranged between the wash basket and the first drive shaft to allow for selective engagement and disengagement between the wash basket and the first drive shaft,
a second clutch arranged between the wash basket and the second drive shaft to allow for selective engagement and disengagement between the wash basket and the second drive shaft and to allow for the wash basket to rotate with the second drive shaft when the wash basket is disengaged from the first drive shaft, but engaged with the second drive shaft.

10. (Previously presented) An automatic washer according to claim 9, wherein the first drive shaft is connected to the motor via a belt and pulley arrangement.

11. (Previously presented) A drive mechanism according to claim 9, wherein the second drive shaft is connected to the agitator via a direct spline connection.

12. (Previously presented) A drive mechanism according to claim 9, wherein the mechanism comprises a gear mechanism.

13. (Previously presented) A drive mechanism according to claim 12, wherein the gear mechanism comprises a planetary gear arrangement.

14. (Previously presented) A drive mechanism according to claim 13, wherein the first drive shaft is connected to a sun gear and the second drive shaft is connected to a planetary gear carrier.

15. (Previously presented) A drive mechanism according to claim 9, wherein the first clutch comprises a spline clutch.

16. (Currently amended) A drive mechanism according to claim ~~[[9]]~~ 12, wherein the second clutch comprises a tang clutch arranged between the spin tube and the gear mechanism.

17. (Previously presented) A drive mechanism for a vertical axis automatic washer, the washer having a rotatable wash basket, a rotatable agitator concentrically mounted in the wash basket and a drive motor, the drive mechanism comprising:

a first drive shaft driven by the motor at a first rotational speed and with a first torque,

a second drive shaft arranged to rotatably drive the agitator,

a planetary gear arrangement arranged between the first drive shaft and the second drive shaft to convert the first rotational speed and first torque to a second rotational speed and a second torque at the second drive shaft,

a spline clutch arranged between the wash basket and the first drive shaft to allow for selective engagement and disengagement between the wash basket and the first drive shaft,

a tang clutch arranged between the wash basket and the second drive shaft to allow for selective engagement and disengagement between the wash basket and the second drive shaft.

18. (Previously presented) An automatic washer according to claim 17, wherein the first drive shaft is connected to the motor via a belt and pulley arrangement.

19. (Previously presented) A drive mechanism according to claim 17, wherein the second drive shaft is connected to the agitator via a direct spline connection.

20. (Previously presented) A drive mechanism according to claim 17, wherein the first drive shaft is connected to a sun gear and the second drive shaft is connected to a planetary gear carrier.